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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

REBECCA SWIFT, on behalf of herself and
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

ZYNGA GAME NETWORK, INC.,
ADKNOWLEDGE, INC.; D/B/A SUPER
REWARDS; KITN MEDIA USA, INC.,
D/B/A SUPER REWARDS;

Defendants.

Case No. CV 09-5443 SBA

**PLAINTIFF'S MEMORANDUM OF
POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN
OPPOSITION TO ZYNGA GAME
NETWORK'S MOTION TO DISMISS**

Date: June 29, 2010

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Courtroom 1

Assigned to Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong

Complaint Filed: 11/17/09

Trial Date: None Set

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 This case seeks to hold Zynga and its co-conspirators responsible for theft; theft that was
3 publicly acknowledged by Zynga's own CEO, Mark Pincus. Contrary to Zynga's arguments, the
4 Communications Decency Act ("CDA") does not give Zynga a license to steal. Attempting to
5 evade liability for the "horrible things" it has acknowledged doing, Zynga mischaracterizes the
6 allegations in Plaintiff's complaint and ignores its own role in the massive fraud that was
7 perpetrated against thousands of individuals. Here, Plaintiff does not seek to hold Zynga liable
8 for being a "publisher" of "content." Rather, Plaintiff seeks to hold Zynga liable for its *conduct*
9 in helping to steal millions of dollars from thousands of individuals.

10 Specifically, Plaintiff alleges that Zynga intentionally designed its games to create a
11 demand among players for the "virtual currency" that is integrated into those games. Zynga then
12 used the demand for this virtual currency to entice consumers into responding to Integrated
13 Special Offer Transactions ("ISOTs") that appear within Zynga's games. At all times, Zynga
14 knew the ISOTs were designed to steal money from consumers and Zynga orchestrated this
15 scheme in order to receive a share of the stolen proceeds. This is what Zynga calls "monetizing"
16 its otherwise "free" games. This *conduct* is the essence of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint
17 ("FAC"); not Zynga's role as a "publisher" or "speaker" of "content."

18 Zynga's Motion to Dismiss must be denied. First, the CDA does not apply to the conduct
19 alleged in the FAC. The CDA was enacted to prevent states from imposing strict liability against
20 websites that have merely published illegal content supplied by others. Specifically, it provides
21 that no website "shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by
22 another information content provider." 47 U.S.C. § 230(c). However, Plaintiff does not seek to
23 hold Zynga strictly liable as a "publisher" or "speaker" of illegal "content." Rather, Plaintiff
24 seeks to hold Zynga liable as an active participant in the theft of millions of dollars from
25 consumers throughout the United States. The CDA does not provide immunity from theft.

26 Second, even if the CDA did apply to Plaintiff's claims, Zynga and its co-conspirators are
27 not entitled to immunity because they are "information content providers." The CDA does not
28 provide immunity to websites that are "responsible in whole or in part" for either "creating or

1 developing” the content that is the subject of the Complaint. 47 U.S.C. § 230(f)(3). A website
 2 will be deemed to have “developed” content if, instead of being a neutral, passive conduit of
 3 content, it materially contributes to the alleged illegal conduct or somehow acts to enhance the
 4 content. *See Fair Housing Council of San Fernando Valley v. Roommates.Com, LLC*, 521 F.3d
 5 1157, 1167-1168 (9th Cir. 2008). Here, Zynga’s “material contribution” to the unlawful conduct
 6 is clearly alleged in the FAC.

7 The design of the ISOTs, their placement within Zynga’s games, and the language of the
 8 ISOTs offering virtual currency are all created by Zynga. (FAC ¶¶ 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22,
 9 33, 34, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41.) In fact, many of the ISOTs appearing in Zynga’s games are fully
 10 integrated into the games themselves and consumers participating in the games do not even
 11 realize they are dealing with third parties. (*Id.*) Zynga is also responsible for crediting
 12 consumers’ accounts with virtual currency in exchange for the consumers’ participation in the
 13 ISOTs, and receives a portion of the money stolen from consumers. (*Id.*) By providing free
 14 virtual currency to consumers and then receiving real money in return, Zynga not only caused the
 15 fraud to occur but is an actual party to the illegal transactions that are the subject of this case.
 16 (*Id.*) No case cited by the defendant involves the type of active participation, enhancement, and
 17 material contribution that is present here.

18 Third, even if Zynga was not an “information content provider,” it would still not be
 19 entitled to CDA immunity, because Plaintiff’s UCL claims allege that Zynga has violated Federal
 20 wire and mail fraud statutes. The CDA expressly does not provide immunity from the violation
 21 of Federal criminal statutes. *See* 47 U.S.C. § 230(e)(1).

22 Finally, Defendant’s argument that the FAC is not plead with adequate specificity are
 23 without merit. The FAC in this case describes, in detail, Zynga’s conduct leading to the theft of
 24 millions of dollars from thousands of individuals. (FAC ¶¶ 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 33, 34,
 25 37, 38, 39, 40, 41.) It describes how Zynga designed its games to create a demand for virtual
 26 currency and how it used that demand to lure consumers into responding to ISOTs it knew were
 27 fraudulent. (FAC ¶¶ 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41.) In fact, the FAC
 28 actually provides a link to a video that graphically describes in detail how the Defendants’ ISOTs

are misleading, provided in electronic form as Exhibit 1 to Plaintiff's concurrently-filed Request for Judicial Notice. Additionally, the FAC extensively quotes Zynga's own CEO, Mark Pincus, wherein he expressly acknowledges Zynga's direct involvement in the fraud that is the subject of this case, and admits that the "horrible things" Zynga has done were intended to "generate revenue" for Pincus' new company. (FAC ¶ 16.) Rarely does a complaint contain such specific factual allegations.

II. FACTS

Defendant Zynga Game Network Inc. ("Zynga") is in the business of developing and making available to users of Facebook, MySpace, and other social networking sites a large variety of popular on-line games that include titles such as Mafia Wars, YoVille!, FarmVille, and Poker. (FAC ¶ 1.) These games have become wildly popular with an estimated 40 million active players throughout the United States. (FAC ¶ 31.)

Zynga's games are played online over the internet and are offered to users free of charge. (FAC ¶ 2.) However, since its inception, Zynga has admittedly sought to generate revenue from its otherwise "free" games through a process it calls "monetization." (*Id.*) Although most "free" content made available on the internet is supported through traditional banner advertising, where advertisers pay for the right to present advertisements that appear next to or along with the "free" content, Zynga has taken a different tack. (*Id.*) Instead of hosting advertisements to its users, Zynga generates revenue by selling "virtual currency" to players within its games. (*Id.*)

Specifically, Zynga has designed its games so that they are social in nature, allowing the players to create an online persona or avatar that can interact with other players' personas or avatars. (FAC ¶ 3.) Each of these games is also competitive, allowing players to compare their virtual accomplishments with each other on Facebook or other social networks, and, in many cases, allowing them to compete with each other directly within the game. (*Id.*) In its effort to "monetize" its games, Zynga has designed them to be more enjoyable for users who have acquired greater amounts of "virtual currency" within the game. (FAC ¶ 4.) Players who have acquired virtual currency in each game can use it to acquire more in-game goods and services, to unlock new levels of the game, to better compete against other players, or to otherwise make the

1 game more enjoyable. (*Id.*) Virtual currency can be acquired when players slowly “earn” it by
2 accomplishing various tasks in the game, through means that are entirely dictated by Zynga. (*Id.*)
3 However, when players “earn” their own virtual currency within these games Zynga gains
4 nothing—which is why it may only be “earned” very slowly. (*Id.*) Accordingly, Zynga has
5 pushed its users to acquire virtual currency in other ways that directly enrich Zynga. (*Id.*)

6 Generally, users can purchase virtual currency directly from Zynga. (FAC ¶ 5.)
7 However, most Zynga game users are unwilling to pay real-world money for “virtual currency”
8 inside a video game. (*Id.*) Accordingly, Zynga provides another way for users to acquire virtual
9 currency: through “special offer” transactions that Defendants have created and developed to be
10 integrated within each of Zynga’s game applications. (FAC ¶ 6.) Through these “Integrated
11 Special Offer Transactions,” or “ISOTs,” Zynga provides users in-game virtual currency in
12 exchange for users’ participation in “special offers.” (*Id.*)

13 For example, players of the game Farmville create a virtual farm where they can grow
14 crops, purchase animals, etc. (FAC ¶ 12.) When a player reaches some goal in the game (for
15 example by harvesting a new crop), the players’ friends on Facebook are advised of the player’s
16 accomplishment. Additionally, throughout the game, players are able to “earn” virtual currency
17 through their accomplishments and are then able to spend this currency on new seeds, farm
18 equipment, etc. at an on-line “Marketplace” that is integrated into the game. (FAC ¶¶ 4, 5, 6.)

19 However, within Farmville and other Zynga games, players are also given the option of
20 obtaining virtual currency by responding to ISOTs. (FAC ¶ 6.) The ISOTs are located
21 prominently within the Marketplace and appear to be part of the Zynga game itself *See, e.g.,*
22 Exhibit 3 to Plaintiff’s Request for Judicial Notice, a screen shot from a Zynga game that lists a
23 series of ISOTs featured in Tech Crunch’s article “‘Horrible Things’ Slink Back Into Zynga,”
24 referenced at FAC ¶ 13. Next to each ISOT is a large button that prominently displays how much
25 free virtual currency the player can receive by responding to the offer. (*Id.*) Next to the button is
26 a description of the offer. (*Id.*)

27 One of the most common ISOTs appearing in Zynga games are “quizzes” and “IQ tests.”
28 The ISOTs state that if the consumer takes an “IQ test” or other quiz, or achieves a certain score,

1 the consumer will receive a specified amount of virtual currency. (FAC ¶ 13.) After the
 2 consumer clicks on the ISOT he or she is then directed to the “test” that must be completed in
 3 order to obtain virtual currency in a Zynga game. At the end of the test, the consumer is asked for
 4 her cell phone number and is told that she will receive a text message of the results. (*Id.*) What
 5 the player is not told (or is told in extremely fine print at the bottom of the ISOT) is that by
 6 providing her cell phone number, the consumer is signing up for a useless text message service
 7 that will result in a monthly charge of \$10 on their cell phone bill. (*Id.*) Once the consumer has
 8 completed the transaction, her game account is credited with virtual currency by Zynga, and
 9 Zynga receives a fee from the text messaging service that is now billing the consumer for a
 10 useless service. (*Id.*) A video describing this scam and how it works can be found at
 11 <http://techcrunch.com/2009/11/07/horrible-things-slink-back-into-zynga/> and is attached to
 12 Plaintiff’s Request for Judicial Notice as Exhibit 1.

13 The use of these highly misleading ISOTs has been extremely profitable to Zynga. With
 14 over 40 million players on its games, it is estimated that Zynga has received in excess of \$84
 15 million from consumers who were taken in by fraudulent ISOTs. (FAC ¶ 34.)

16 **A. Zynga’s Relationship with Offer Agregattors**

17 Although most individuals participating in an ISOT transaction have no idea they are
 18 dealing with anyone but Zynga, the ISOT transactions actually involve several different parties.
 19 (FAC ¶ 6.) Specifically, Zynga has partnered with several “offer aggregators” whose role it is to
 20 solicit and then “aggregate” offers from numerous third parties who are seeking to promote their
 21 scams through Zynga’s ISOTs. (FAC ¶ 8.) These “aggregators” then broker the deal between the
 22 third parties and Zynga to allow the scam to be incorporated into an ISOT that appears within
 23 Zynga’s games. (*Id.*) When consumers participate in one of the ISOT scams, the funds obtained
 24 from players are then split among the third party, the aggregator, and Zynga. (*Id.*)

25 Plaintiff alleges that this system of utilizing “offer aggregators” is intentionally designed
 26 to create a buffer between Zynga and disreputable third parties stealing from consumers over the
 27 internet. (FAC ¶ 10.) In fact, Plaintiff is informed and believes that some of these agregattors
 28 may have been funded by Zynga’s owners in order to facilitate these fraudulent transactions.

1 (FAC ¶ 11.)

2 **B. In November 2009, Zynga Admits That All ISOTS Appearing in its Games**
 3 **are Fraudulent and Removes Them From its Games.**

4 In November 2009, a video tape of a speech given by Zynga, CEO Mark Pincus, was
 5 posted on the internet. In this speech, Mr. Pincus readily admitted that the ISOTs appearing
 6 within Zynga's game applications were designed to mislead consumers and generate increasing
 7 revenue for its business. (FAC ¶ 16.) Specifically, in Spring 2009, Mr. Pincus described how
 8 shortly after founding Zynga he desperately needed revenue in order to keep control of his
 9 company. (*Id.*) He then boasted that this revenue was primarily generated through scams like the
 10 one described above:

11 "Like I needed the revenue now. So, so **I funded the company myself but I did**
 12 **every horrible thing in the book to just get revenues right away.** I mean we
 13 gave our users poker chips if they downloaded this wiki toolbar, which was like . .
 14 . I don't know. I downloaded it once and I couldn't get rid of it. **We did anything**
 15 **possible to just get revenues so that we could grow and be a real business."**
 (Emphasis added.)

16 (FAC ¶ 16.)

17 After making this public admission, many media outlets began to question Zynga's
 18 practices surrounding its ISOTs. (FAC ¶ 17). In response to this controversy, in November 2009,
 19 Zynga purported to have banned *all* ISOTs within its game applications. (*Id.*) In fact, in a
 20 belated acknowledgement that Zynga's ISOTs were deceptive or worse, Mr. Pincus publicly
 21 conceded that all such offers would be banned "*until we see any that offer clear user value.*" (*Id.*)

22 Later Mark Pincus attempted to clarify his previous comments. However, in doing so, he
 23 again admitted Zynga's direct involvement in the scams that lead to the theft of millions of
 24 dollars from thousands of individuals:

25 "that was a video, uh, that was taken while I was giving a talk, uh, about a year
 26 earlier and it was part of a series of talks that I have given since then to
 27 entrepreneurs and they're all on the web and I invite people to watch all of them
 28 and **the real point I was making was that, as entrepreneurs, we ought to have**

1 **profitable services as early as we can so we can control our destinies and so**
 2 **we can be in a position, as my company was recently, to do the right thing and**
 3 **make the long-term decisions like, get rid of all offers.”** (Emphasis added.)

4 Thus, Zynga’s own CEO has admitted that Zynga has known for some time that the
 5 ISOTs Zynga and its partners designed and promoted were taking advantage of Zynga’s users but
 6 that its actions were somehow “justified” by Zynga’s need for revenue. It was only after Zynga’s
 7 misdeeds were made public that Zynga purported “to do the right thing.” (FAC ¶¶ 19-20.)
 8 However, to date, Zynga has not offered to reimburse any of the thousands of users who were
 9 misled by the bogus ISOTs appearing within its games. (FAC ¶ 21.)

10 **III. THE CDA**

11 The Communications Decency Act or “CDA” can be found at 42 U.S.C. Section 230. It
 12 was enacted by Congress primarily in response to a state court decision against an internet service
 13 provider that was found strictly liable for allowing a third party to post a libelous message on one
 14 of its financial message boards. *Stratton Oakmont, Inc. v. Prodigy Servs. Co.*, 1995 N.Y. Misc.
 15 LEXIS 229 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. May 24, 1995) (unpublished) The decision was based on a finding
 16 that, under state law, the internet provider had become a “publisher” of the libelous material
 17 because it voluntarily deleted some messages from its message boards “on the basis of
 18 offensiveness and bad taste.” *Id.* at *10.

19 In response to this decision, Congress enacted the CDA “to promote the free exchange of
 20 information and ideas over the Internet and to encourage voluntary monitoring for offensive or
 21 obscene material.” *Carafano v. Metrosplash.com, Inc.*, 339 F.3d 1119, 1122 (9th Cir. 2003). To
 22 accomplish this, Congress created certain immunities for websites that allow third parties to post
 23 content on their sites. Specifically, the CDA provides:

24 (1) Treatment of publisher or speaker

25 No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the
 26 publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content
 27 provider.

27 (2) Civil liability

28 No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be held liable on

1 account of--

2 (A) any action voluntarily taken in good faith to restrict access to or availability of
3 material that the provider or user considers to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy,
4 excessively violent, harassing, or otherwise objectionable, whether or not such
5 material is constitutionally protected; or

6 (B) any action taken to enable or make available to information content providers
7 or others the technical means to restrict access to material described in paragraph
8 (1),” 47 U.S.C. Section 230 (b)

9 Section (f)(2) defines “Interactive computer service” as “any information service, system,
10 or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a
11 computer server, including specifically a service or system that provides access to the Internet and
12 such systems operated or services offered by libraries or educational institutions.”

13 Section (f)(3) defines “Information content provider” as “any person or entity that is
14 responsible, in whole or in part, for the creation or development of information provided through
15 the Internet or any other interactive computer service.” By its terms, the grant of immunity found
16 in Section 230(c)(1) and (2) applies only if the interactive computer service is not also an
17 “information content provider.”

18 A website operator can be both an “interactive service provider” and a “content provider.”
19 *Fair Housing Council of San Fernando Valley v. Roommates.Com, LLC*, 521 F.3d 1157, 1162-
20 1163 (9th Cir. 2008) (hereinafter “*Roommates.Com*”). If the website “passively” displays content
21 that is created entirely by third parties, then it is only a service provider with respect to that
22 content. *Id.* However, as to content that it creates itself, or is “responsible, in whole or in part”
23 for “creating or developing,” the website is a content provider and not entitled to CDA immunity.
24 *Id.*

25 The leading Ninth Circuit decision on the scope of CDA immunity is *Roommates.Com*. In
26 this case, the Ninth Circuit went to great lengths to describe under what circumstances a service
27 provider may become an “information content provider” that is not entitled to CDA immunity.
28 Noting the difference between “creating” and “developing” content for a website, the court found
that the definition of a “content provider” encompasses much more than just the entity that
created the content that appears on the website. Rather, a website will be deemed a “content

provider” even if it did not “create” the content as long as it “materially contributes to the alleged illegal conduct.” *Id.* at 1167-1168.

IV. THE CDA DOES NOT APPLY TO PLAINTIFF’S CLAIMS BECAUSE THOSE CLAIMS DO NOT SEEK TO HOLD ZYNGA STRICTLY LIABLE AS A “PUBLISHER” OF ILLEGAL CONTENT

The CDA was enacted “to promote the free exchange of information and ideas over the Internet and to encourage voluntary monitoring for offensive or obscene material.” *Carafano v. Metrosplash.com, Inc.*, 339 F.3d 1119, 1122 (9th Cir.2003). Zynga attempts to repurpose the CDA from the promotion of free speech to the immunization of theft. To do this, Zynga repeatedly discusses the “content” presented on and within its games and how Plaintiff is attempting to impose liability for this “content.” (*I.e.*, Mot. at 6.) However, Plaintiff’s false advertising and CLRA claims are not based on “content,” they are based on *conduct*. The Plaintiff is not attempting to hold Zynga strictly liable for merely “publishing” false advertisements. Rather, Plaintiff is seeking to impose liability for Zynga’s active orchestration of and participation in a scheme designed to entice consumers to respond to fraudulent ISOTs through Zynga’s creation and distribution of virtual currency. It is Zynga’s *conduct*, both before and after the ISOTs are promoted through its games, that gives rise to Plaintiff’s claims. This is a fundamental distinction between this case and every reported decision cited in the defendant’s brief.

For example, when a bank robber walks into a bank and states “give me all the money,” he is not prosecuted for “publishing” the words “give me all the money.” He is prosecuted for the act of stealing. Additionally, the accomplice who drives the get away car for the robber is not prosecuted for “content” that was “published” by his accomplice. Although “speaking words” is how the robber and accomplice eventually obtained money from the bank, the claims against them arise not from this speech but from the actions that follow. It is the bank robbery transaction itself that gives rise to the robber and accomplices’ liability.

The important difference between claims premised on “publication” and those that are not is explained in *Barnes v. Yahoo!, Inc.* 570 F.3d 1096 (9th Cir. 2009). In *Barnes*, the plaintiff’s

1 ex-boyfriend posted offensive and unauthorized content about Plaintiff on one of Yahoo!’s public
 2 profile pages. *Id.* at 1098-1099. Although Yahoo! had a policy allowing individuals to remove
 3 such content from its profile pages, Yahoo! failed to remove the offensive material. *Id.* The
 4 plaintiff’s complaint against Yahoo! alleged that Yahoo! was liable for failing to remove the
 5 offensive content. *Id.* at 1099. The Ninth Circuit found that although the CDA barred claims
 6 based on a cause of action of negligent undertaking, a cause of action for promissory estoppel was
 7 not barred by the CDA. *Id.* at 1105, 1109. Even though the two causes of action were based on
 8 identical conduct (failing to remove the offensive content), the court distinguished the two claims
 9 by looking at the nature of the claim and whether the claim sought to impose liability for
 10 “publication.”

11 Specifically, the court noted that “by its terms . . . section (c)(1) only ensures that in
 12 certain cases an internet service provider will not be ‘treated’ as the ‘publisher or speaker’ of
 13 third-party content for the purposes of another cause of action. [Therefore] the question before us
 14 is how to determine when, for purposes of this statute, a plaintiff’s theory of liability would treat a
 15 defendant as a publisher or speaker of third-party content.” *Barnes*, 339 F.3d at 1101. The court
 16 answered this question by finding that the CDA only provides immunity from causes of action
 17 that are premised on “publication.” *Id.* “To put it another way, courts must ask whether the duty
 18 that Plaintiff alleges the defendant violated derives from the defendant’s status or conduct as a
 19 ‘publisher or speaker.’ If it does, section 230(c)(1) precludes liability.” *Id.* at 1101-1102.

20 In a case from the Tenth Circuit, a concurring opinion that relies on *Barnes* expanded on
 21 this content/conduct distinction. *See F.T.C. v. Accusearch Inc.*, 570 F.3d 1187, 1206 (10th Cir.).
 22 In *Accusearch*, the FTC brought suit against a website that obtained private telephone information
 23 about consumers and sold that information through its website. *Id.* at 1190. The FTC alleged that
 24 the defendant purchased the information from private third parties who had obtained it illegally.
 25 *Id.* at 1191. The defendant sought immunity under the CDA, arguing that it was merely the
 26 publisher of third party “content.” In rejecting this argument, the concurring justice noted:

27 “As is clear from the complaint, the FTC’s allegations of FTCA violations
 28 stemmed **not from the content** of the information Accusearch was disclosing (or

developing), but from *Accusearch's own conduct* in (1) offering the information for sale, (2) soliciting and encouraging third-parties to violate the law in obtaining the information, and (3) ultimately paying these third parties and selling the information to consumers. Accusearch's duty to refrain from engaging in these unfair business practices does not derive from its status or conduct as an Internet website that publishes content. Rather, the duty the FTC alleged Accusearch violated derives from the expectations that a business would not engage in unlawful or unfair business practices in general (whether the business is a conventional bricks-and-mortar operation or exists entirely on the World Wide Web). See *Barnes*, 565 F.3d at 566. While Internet publication of the confidential phone data, by itself, may very well be protected by the CDA, **the CDA does not immunize, expressly or implicitly, the manner in which Accusearch conducted its business. In sum, the CDA does not extend to immunize a party's conduct outside the realm of the Internet just because it relates to the publishing of information on the Internet.**" (emphasis added)

Id. at 1206.

Other courts have also noted this distinction between content and conduct. See *800-JR Cigar, Inc. v. GoTo.com, Inc.*, 437 F.Supp.2d 273, 295 (D.N.J. 2006) ("[I]mmunity under the Act applies to any cause of action that would make service providers liable for information originating with a third-party user of the service. Immunity does not seem to fit here because the alleged fraud is the use of the trademark name in the bidding process, and not solely the information from third parties that appears on the search results page"); *Mazur v. eBay Inc.*, No. C 07-03967 MHP, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16561, at *28, *37 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 4, 2008) ("The CDA does not immunize [a content provider] for its own fraudulent misconduct.... [Here,] eBay's statement regarding safety affects and creates an expectation regarding the procedures and manner in which the auction is conducted and consequently goes beyond traditional editorial discretion.").

Plaintiff does not seek to hold Zynga liable due to its status as a "publisher of content." Instead, Plaintiff seeks to hold Zynga liable for actively engaging in a conspiracy to steal money from consumers and its participation in transactions designed to mislead consumers. Specifically,

the FAC alleges that Zynga knew that the ISOTs offered through its games were scams designed to mislead and defraud consumers. (FAC ¶ 16.) The FAC further alleges that Zynga intentionally designed its games to entice and encourage consumers to participate in the bogus offers by giving them virtual currency that could be used in the games. (*Id.* ¶¶ 4-6.) Finally, the FAC alleges that these scams were conducted as part of a joint venture and/or conspiracy with various third parties and that Zynga received a portion of the funds that were stolen from the Class. (*E.g.*, FAC ¶ 41.) Accordingly, Plaintiffs' claims have little or nothing to do with the defendant's role as a "publisher" of information. Plaintiff's claims are based on Zynga's *conduct* in encouraging consumers to be defrauded and its status as a co-conspirator in a scheme designed to steal money. Just because this conduct was carried out over the internet does not make it legal.

V. EVEN IF THE CDA DID ENCOMPAS PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS, ZYNGA IS NOT ENTITLED TO IMMUNITY BECAUSE IT IS AN "INFORMATION CONTENT PROVIDER"

The CDA provides no immunity for websites that are also "information content providers." Section (f)(3) contains a broad definition of an "information content provider" defining it as "any person or entity that is responsible, in whole or in part, for the creation or development of information provided through the Internet or any other interactive computer service." 47 U.S.C. 230(f)(3).

The Ninth Circuit discussed the definition of an "information content provider" extensively in *Fair Housing Council of San Fernando Valley v. Roommates.Com, LLC*, 521 F.3d 1157, 1162-1175 (9th Cir. 2008) ("*Roommates*"). In *Roommates*, the defendant ran a website that attempted to match individuals looking for roommates with individuals seeking housing. *Id.* at 1161-1162. To do this, the website required users to state their preferences for the gender, family status, and sexual orientation of prospective roommates. *Id.* Various fair housing groups sued Roommates.com in federal court, alleging that its business violated the federal Fair Housing Act by allowing members to assert discriminatory preferences for housing. *Id.* at 1162. The question before the court was whether the website was entitled to immunity under the CDA even though the allegedly discriminatory content originated from third parties. *Id.* at 1165. The Ninth Circuit, in an en banc decision, found that CDA immunity did not apply because the website was

1 *both* an “information service provider” *and* an “information content provider.” *Id.*

2 In reaching this decision the court first examined the legislative history underlying the
3 CDA. *Id.* at 1163-1164. In examining this history, the court cautioned against expanding CDA
4 immunity beyond that which Congress originally intended. Noting that the policy considerations
5 underlying the enactment of the CDA had become far less compelling since the statute was
6 originally enacted, the court concluded:

7 “The Internet is no longer a fragile new means of communication that could easily
8 be smothered in the cradle by overzealous enforcement of laws and regulations
9 applicable to brick-and-mortar businesses. Rather, it has become a dominant-
10 perhaps the preeminent-means through which commerce is conducted. And its
11 vast reach into the lives of millions is exactly why we must be careful not to
12 exceed the scope of the immunity provided by Congress and thus give online
13 businesses an unfair advantage over their real-world counterparts, which must
14 comply with laws of general applicability.”

14 *Id.* at 1164, n. 15.

15 After examining this legislative history, the Ninth Circuit then turned to the language of
16 the statute itself and provided guidance as to when a website becomes an “information content
17 provider” that is not entitled to CDA immunity. Here, the court found that the definition of a
18 “content provider” encompasses much more than just the entity that created the content that
19 appears on the website. *Id.* at 1166. Noting that the definition of a “content provider” also
20 encompasses entities that help “develop” content either “in whole or in part,” the court found that
21 a website will be deemed a “content provider,” if it actually creates the content or “materially
22 contributes to the alleged illegal conduct.” *Id.* at 1167-1168. Distinguishing between a website
23 that is merely a passive conduit for content that is posted on it and one that has a more active
24 involvement in the content, the court noted:

25 “It’s true that the broadest sense of the term ‘develop’ could include the functions
26 of an ordinary search engine-indeed, just about any function performed by a
27 website. But to read the term so broadly would defeat the purposes of section 230
28 by swallowing up every bit of the immunity that the section otherwise provides.

At the same time, reading the exception for co-developers as applying only to content that originates entirely with the website-as the dissent would seem to suggest-ignores the words ‘**development ... in part**’ in the statutory passage ‘**creation or development in whole or in part.**’ 47 U.S.C. § 230(f)(3) (emphasis added). We believe that both the immunity for passive conduits and the exception for co-developers must be given their proper scope and, to that end, **we interpret the term ‘development’ as referring not merely to augmenting the content generally, but to materially contributing to its alleged unlawfulness. In other words, a website helps to develop unlawful content, and thus falls within the exception to section 230, if it contributes materially to the alleged illegality of the conduct.**

Id. at 1167-1168 (emphasis added).

In reaching its decision, the Ninth Circuit also distinguished between a website that merely provides “neutral tools” that may be utilized by unscrupulous third parties and a website that “encourages or enhances” the illegal content created by users.

“[In *Carafano v. Metrosplash.com, Inc.*, 339 F.3d 1119 (9th Cir. 2003)] we correctly held that the website was immune, but incorrectly suggested that it could never be liable because ‘no [dating] profile has any content until a user actively creates it.’ As we explain above, . . . **even if the data are supplied by third parties, a website operator may still contribute to the content’s illegality and thus be liable as a developer. Providing immunity every time a website uses data initially obtained from third parties would eviscerate the exception to section 230 for ‘develop[ing]’ unlawful content ‘in whole or in part.’** 47 U.S.C. § 230(f)(3).

Id. at 1166 (emphasis added).

A. Zynga Has Both “Created” And “Developed” The ISOTs At Issue In This Case.

As set forth above, a website is not entitled to CDA immunity if it “is responsible, in whole or in part, for the creation or development of information provided” on its website. Accordingly, if the website is “responsible” for “creating” even a “part” of the offensive content,

1 it is not entitled to CDA immunity.

2 Here, there is no doubt that Zynga is responsible for creating the most critical content of
3 the ISOTs that are incorporated into its games. The ISOTs appear directly within Zynga's games
4 and each ISOT is highlighted with a large button indicating the amount of free virtual currency
5 the player can receive by responding to the ISOT. (*See* Exhibit 3 to Plaintiff's Request for
6 Judicial Notice.) The text of the ISOTs contain detailed language indicating that those who
7 participate in the ISOT will receive a specified amount of free virtual currency. (*Id.*) The large
8 buttons and language in the ISOT reporting the amount of Zynga's virtual currency to be awarded
9 are all "content" created by Zynga. (*Id.*) In fact, the lure of free virtual currency is the most
10 important "content" within the ISOT because, without it, it is unlikely any consumer would ever
11 participate in an ISOT.

12 Additionally, Zynga is responsible for the design, layout, and format of the ISOTs, and the
13 ISOTs appear directly within Zynga's games. (FAC ¶¶ 12, 13, 33, 36, 37.) In fact, it is the
14 design and format of the ISOTs that is arguably one of the most deceiving aspects of the offers
15 since many consumers may not even realize the "quiz" or "IQ test" they are taking is part of some
16 third party marketing program—from the consumer's perspective, the quiz is part of a transaction
17 for Zynga virtual currency. (*See* Ex. 1, 3 to Plaintiff's Request for Judicial Notice.) The ISOTs
18 are thus directly integrated into Zynga's games.

19 Moreover, in addition to demonstrating that Zynga is responsible for creating the content
20 of the ISOTs, Plaintiff has undoubtedly demonstrated Zynga's "material contribution" to the
21 alleged unlawful activity. Specifically, the FAC alleges that Zynga designed its games to
22 intentionally create the demand for the virtual currency offered in those games and then used this
23 demand to lure consumers into fraudulent ISOT transactions. In fact, by offering free virtual
24 currency to consumers who participate in ISOTs, Zynga is actually a party to the fraudulent
25 transactions that are the subject of this case—it is Zynga, not any third party, which actually
26 provided the virtual currency that led consumers to complete ISOTs. There is no doubt that,
27 using the language of the Ninth Circuit, Zynga's active and direct involvement "substantially
28 enhanced" the fraudulent ISOTs. *Roomates.Com*, 521 F.3d at 1172.

1 If there was any doubt as to Zynga's "material contribution" to this scheme or the fact that
 2 it is "responsible" for the offending content, one only need look at the public statements of
 3 Zynga's own CEO, Mark Pincus. In a recent speech, Pincus admitted Zynga's "responsibility"
 4 when he described the reasons why Zynga presented misleading ISOTs .:

5 "... I needed the revenue now. So, so **I funded the company myself but I did**
 6 **every horrible thing in the book to just get revenues right away.** I mean we
 7 gave our users poker chips if they downloaded this wiki toolbar, which was like . .
 8 . I don't know. I downloaded it once and I couldn't get rid of it. **We did anything**
 9 **possible to just get revenues so that we could grow and be a real business."**
 10 (Emphasis added.)

11 (FAC ¶ 16.)

12 In making these statements, Mr. Pincus explicitly admits that Zynga, not a third party,
 13 "did every horrible thing." Moreover, within days after these admissions were made public on
 14 the internet, Zynga announced that it was removing *all* ISOTs from its games because they "did
 15 not provide value" to consumers – a decisions which Pincus described as "the right thing" to do.
 16 Here, again, the plain language of Mr. Pincus's statements refers to **Zynga's** previous failure "to
 17 do the right thing," not to any failure by any third party. Zynga is no innocent victim of "third
 18 party" conduct; quite the contrary, Zynga's own admissions acknowledge the company's direct
 19 involvement and material contribution to the illegal conduct that is the subject of this action.

20 **B. None of The Cases Cited By Defendants Even Approaches The Type of Direct**
 21 **Involvement and "Material Contribution" Alleged in The Complaint.**

22 To support its position that it is entitled to CDA immunity, Zynga relies heavily on the
 23 district court's decision in *Goddard v. Google, Inc.*, 640 F.Supp.2d 1193 (N.D. Cal. 2009).
 24 However, an examination of *Goddard* demonstrates that the situation there is entirely different
 25 from the facts alleged in this case.

26 In *Goddard*, the court found that Google was entitled to CDA immunity in connection
 27 with fraudulent advertisements appearing on its search engine. *Id.* at 1199. In that case, Google
 28 allowed companies that sold cell phone ring tones to post allegedly misleading ads on Google's

1 search engine. *Id.* at 1194. The ring tone advertisements would only appear when certain
 2 keywords were entered into the search engine by consumers. *Id.* at 1197. The advertisers could
 3 select which keywords they wanted to associate with their advertisements, and Google provided
 4 them with a keyword suggestion tool to help them identify possible keywords. The *only*
 5 contribution to the ads that Plaintiff could point to was Google's keyword suggestion tool. *Id.*
 6 Plaintiff alleged that by allowing advertisers to utilize this tool, Google had been transformed into
 7 an "information content provider" that was not entitled to CDA immunity. *Id.*

8 The district court determined that Google could not be held responsible for merely
 9 publishing the fraudulent advertisements on its search engine. *Goddard*, 640 F.Supp.2d at 1198.
 10 Relying on *Roomates.Com* the court found that Google did not "materially contribute to" or
 11 "enhance" the false advertising at issue. *Id.* The court reasoned that since Google provided a
 12 neutral tool that merely "suggested" key words that could be used by advertisers, those
 13 suggestions did not constitute a sufficient contribution to the ads to bring Google within the
 14 definition of a "content provider." *Id.*

15 Here, the situation is entirely different. Zynga is not a neutral website that is merely
 16 allowing random third parties to post ads. Rather, Zynga is a direct participant in the fraudulent
 17 transactions that are the subject of this case. (FAC ¶¶ 32, 33, 34.) Zynga created the games that
 18 allow the ISOTs to prosper and in which the ISOTs appear. (*Id.*) Zynga lured consumers to the
 19 ISOTs by offering them free virtual currency. (FAC ¶¶ 6-9.) Zynga is responsible for the design,
 20 format, and appearance of the ISOTs within the virtual marketplaces that it owns and controls.
 21 (*Id.*) Zynga is responsible for the text in the ISOTs which indicates that consumers will receive
 22 free virtual currency for participating in the ISOT as well as the large buttons that direct
 23 consumers to the transactions. (*Id.*, Ex. 3 to Plaintiff's Request for Judicial Notice.) Zynga is
 24 also responsible for designing the ISOTs so that participating consumers may not realize they are
 25 participating in a third party scam. (*Id.*) Finally, when consumers are defrauded by the ISOTs,
 26 Zynga receives a share of the proceeds. (FAC ¶ 8.) These facts differ sharply from a search
 27 engine which passively allows others to display advertisements on its site.

28 Additionally, none of the other cases cited by defendants comes even close to the direct

1 and material involvement alleged here. For example, in *Green v. America Online*, 318 F.3d 465
 2 (3d Cir. 2003), AOL was held immune for derogatory comments and malicious software
 3 transmitted by other defendants through AOL's "Romance over 30" "chat room." There was no
 4 allegation that AOL solicited the content, encouraged users to post harmful content or otherwise
 5 had any involvement whatsoever with the harmful content, other than through providing "chat
 6 rooms" for general use. *Id.* at 469.

7 In *Ben Ezra, Weinstein, and Co. v. America Online Inc.*, 206 F.3d 980 (10th Cir. 2000),
 8 the court held AOL immune for relaying inaccurate stock price information it received from other
 9 vendors. While AOL undoubtedly participated in the decision to make stock quotations available
 10 to members, it did not cause the errors in the stock data, nor did it encourage or solicit others to
 11 provide inaccurate data. *Id.* at 984-85. AOL was immune because "Plaintiff could not identify
 12 any evidence indicating Defendant [AOL] developed or created the stock quotation information."
 13 *Id.* at 985 n.5.

14 In *Zeran v. America Online, Inc.*, 129 F.3d 327 (4th Cir. 1997), the court held AOL
 15 immune for yet another set of defamatory and harassing message board postings. Again, AOL
 16 did not solicit the harassing content, did not encourage others to post it, and had nothing to do
 17 with its creation other than through AOL's role as the provider of a generic message board for
 18 general discussions. *Id.* at 328-29.

19 Finally, in *Batzel v. Smith*, 333 F.3d 1018 (9th Cir. 2002), the court found a website
 20 operator that allegedly posted defamatory e-mail immune under the CDA. However, in that case
 21 the website operator did "no more than select and make minor alterations" to the emails submitted
 22 to his site. *Id.* at 1031.

23 All of these cases are distinguishable from the situation presented here. In this case,
 24 Zynga's involvement in the fraudulent transactions is direct, material, and substantial.

25 **VI. THE CDA DOES NOT GRANT IMMUNITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL** 26 **WIRE FRAUD STATUTES**

27 Section (e)(1) of the CDA provides that none of the provisions of the CDA shall be
 28 "construed to impair the enforcement of . . . any . . . Federal criminal statute." 47 U.S.C.A. §

1 230(e)(1).

2 Here, Plaintiff's First Cause of Action alleges that Zynga's conduct constitutes an
3 "unlawful" business practice in violation of California Business and Professions Code Section
4 17200 (the "UCL") in that its conduct violates federal wire and mail fraud statutes 18 U.S.C.A.
5 §§ 1341 and 1343. It is well settled that the violation of federal wire and mail fraud statutes may
6 serve as a predicate "unlawful" act in violation of the UCL. *See Roskind v. Morgan Stanley*
7 *Dean Witter & Co.*, 80 Cal.App.4th 345, 354 (2000) ("Mail fraud under federal law, is actionable
8 under the UCL, which borrows other law, including federal law, to define the 'unlawful' practices
9 that are UCL violations").

10 The essential elements of mail fraud under section 1341 and wire fraud under section
11 1343 are: (1) the formation of a scheme or artifice to defraud; and (2) use of the mails or interstate
12 communications wires in furtherance of the scheme. *United States v. Bohonus*, 628 F.2d 1167,
13 1171 n. 7 (9th Cir.). Under the first element, Plaintiff must show that the scheme which is the
14 subject of the action was reasonably calculated to deceive persons of ordinary prudence and
15 comprehension. *United States v. Green*, 745 F.2d 1205, 1207 (9th Cir.1984); *Bohonus*, 628 F.2d
16 at 1172. The intent to defraud is shown by examining the scheme itself. *Bohonus*, 628 F.2d at
17 1172. The fraudulent scheme need not be one that includes an affirmative misrepresentation of
18 fact, since it is only necessary to prove that the scheme was calculated to deceive "persons of
19 ordinary prudence." *Id.* at 1173.

20 Additionally, courts have found that a violation of the federal wire fraud statutes do not
21 require a showing of reliance or damages. *See Virden v. Graphics One*, 623 F.Supp. 1417, 1423
22 (1985).

23 Here, Plaintiff has adequately alleged a violation of the Federal wire and mail fraud
24 statutes. Specifically, the FAC alleges that Zynga engaged in a scheme designed to steal funds
25 from consumers and that it do so through the use of "interstate communication wires;" the
26 internet. (FAC ¶¶ 1, 14, 55.) The FAC further alleges a specific intent on the part of Zynga to
27 engage in this scheme. (FAC ¶¶ 16, 19, 32.) In fact, the FAC expressly quotes Zynga's CEO,
28 Mark Pincus wherein he expressly admits his company's active involvement in the scheme and its

1 motive for doing so. (FAC ¶¶ 16, 19.) Because the CDA does not provide immunity from wire
2 and mail fraud, Plaintiff's UCL claims must stand.

3 **VII. PLAINTIFF HAS PLED HER CLAIMS WITH SUFFICIENT PARTICULARITY**

4 Zynga relies almost exclusively on *Kearns v. Ford Motor Co.*, 567 F.3d 1120 (9th Cir.
5 2009), and provides a sparse, incomplete description of Plaintiff's allegations, to argue that her
6 allegations fail to meet the specificity required under Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b) ("Rule 9(b)"). (Mot. at
7 22-25.) However, Plaintiff's allegations do not suffer from the defects described in *Kearns*. The
8 FAC more than adequately alleges the specifics of the misconduct that underlie Plaintiff's claims.

9 The specificity requirements under Rule 9(b) "must be read in harmony with Federal Rule
10 of Civil Procedure 8's requirement of a 'short and plain' statement of the claim. Thus, the
11 particularity requirement is satisfied if the complaint 'identifies the circumstances constituting
12 fraud so that a defendant can prepare an adequate answer from the allegations.'" *Baas v. Dollar*
13 *Tree Stores, Inc.*, No. C 07-03108 JSW, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 65979, at *5 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 29,
14 2007) (quoting *Moore v. Kayport Package Exp., Inc.*, 885 F.2d 531, 540 (9th Cir. 1989)).
15 Moreover, Plaintiff's allegations of fraudulent conduct satisfy Rule 9(b) if they are "'specific
16 enough to give defendants notice of the particular misconduct . . . so that they can defend against
17 the charge and not just deny that they have done anything wrong.'" *Rand v. Am. Nat'l Ins. Co.*,
18 No. C 09-0639 SI, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 64781, at *15 (N.D. Cal. July 28, 2009) (quoting
19 *Neubronner v. Milken*, 6 F.3d 666, 671-72 (9th Cir. 1993)).

20 **A. Plaintiff Is Not Required To Plead Each Element of Fraud Because Fraud Is** 21 **Not A Cause of Action In Her Complaint.**

22 As an initial matter, Zynga incorrectly argues that *Kearns* held that each of the elements
23 of fraud must be pled for Rule 9(b) to be satisfied. (Mot. at 23 ("the complaint [in *Kearns*] failed
24 for not pleading with specificity each of the elements of fraud.")) However, the court in *Kearns*
25 merely discussed the elements of fraud under California law to assist the court in determining
26 whether Rule 9(b) should be applied and whether certain allegations must be pled with
27 particularity, not to prescribe requirements for satisfying Rule 9(b).

28 Specifically, the plaintiff in *Kearns* argued that Rule 9(b) did not apply in part because his

“failure to disclose” claims were not “grounded in fraud.” *Kearns*, 567 F.3d at 1125-26. After describing the elements of fraud under California law, the court held that “nondisclosure” was an element of fraud and that allegations of nondisclosure “must be pleaded with particularity under Rule 9(b).” However, the court did not separately analyze whether each of the elements for fraud was pled with particularity to determine whether Rule 9(b) was satisfied or find that each element of the claims had to be pled with particularity. *See, e.g., FTC v. Swish Mktg.*, No. C 09-03814 RS, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15016, at *7 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 22, 2010) (“[C]ourts in this circuit have required heightened pleading even where a plaintiff neither needed to prove nor alleged all elements of common law fraud.”) (citations omitted); *see also VP Racing Fuels, Inc. v. Gen. Petroleum Corp.*, 673 F. Supp. 2d 1073, 1085-86 (E.D. Cal. 2009) (finding that Rule 9(b) applied and that plaintiff’s UCL claims were pled with sufficient particularity under Rule 9(b) without analyzing each of the elements of fraud).

Plaintiff has not pled a cause of action for fraud and numerous courts have held that fraud is not coextensive with the fraudulent prong of the UCL. As a result, while Plaintiff’s allegations “sound in fraud,” it is not necessary to satisfy each element of fraud to state a claim under the UCL. Rather, plaintiff is merely required to plead the elements of a UCL claim which only requires proof that a defendant has engaged in a business practice that its “likely to deceive the public.” *See, e.g., Gruen v. Edfund*, No. C 09-00644 JSW, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 60396, at *14 (N.D. Cal. July 15, 2009) (“[P]leading a claim under the fraudulent prong of Section 17200 is not the same as pleading common law fraud; ‘[S]ection 17200 does not require a plaintiff to plead all of the elements of fraud.’”) (quoting *In re Mattel, Inc.*, 588 F. Supp. 2d 1111, 1118 (C.D. Cal. 2008)); *see also Marcelos v. Dominguez*, No. C 08-00056 WHA, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 91155, at *32 (N.D. Cal. July 18, 2008) (holding that fraudulent conduct under Section 17200 is “defined more broadly than common law fraud and only requires a showing that ‘members of the public are likely to be deceived.’”) (citation omitted).

B. Plaintiff’s Complaint Pleads Sufficient Facts To Show That Defendant Engaged In A Business Practice That Was “Likely to Deceive The Public.”

In this case, Zynga does not specifically delineate which aspects of the “who, what, when,

1 where and how” are purportedly not satisfied by the FAC. Zynga appears to take issue with
 2 whether Plaintiff has pled with specificity “what” and “how” the alleged conduct was misleading
 3 and deceptive, and whether Plaintiff particularly alleged Zynga’s role in developing, funding and
 4 creating the advertisements. Indeed, Zynga does not, and cannot, contend that Plaintiff has failed
 5 to explain “when” the fraudulent conduct was committed and “where” the fraudulent conduct
 6 occurred. For example, the FAC expressly alleges that Plaintiff incurred charges on April 16,
 7 2009 after receiving a texted “code” that could be used for virtual currency. (*Id.*) In addition,
 8 Plaintiff indicates that she participated in a “risk-free Green Tea Purity Trial” ISOT on June 14,
 9 2009, asked to cancel her order for green tea supplements on June 24, 2009, was emailed
 10 regarding charges for the product on July 4, 2009 and was charged for the product on July 6, 2009
 11 and July 20, 2009. (*Id.* at ¶¶ 38-40.) Moreover, Plaintiff describes the specific games and
 12 websites in which the allegedly deceptive and misleading ISOTs appeared. Plaintiff alleges that
 13 the ISOTs are incorporated into game applications such as Mafia Wars, FarmVille and YoVille!
 14 that users play on social networking websites such as Facebook and MySpace. (*See, e.g., id.* at ¶¶
 15 1, 3-4, 8-9, 12-14, 16-17, 25, 31, 33, 36-38, 40-41, 45, 54.)

16 Amazingly, Zynga also argues that Plaintiff “fail[ed] to state anything that Zynga actually
 17 did related to the ads at issue.” (Mot. at 25.) Apparently, Zynga failed to read the majority of
 18 Plaintiff’s FAC. Plaintiff repeatedly and specifically alleges that *Zynga*, *Adknowledge* and *KITN*
 19 provided (FAC ¶ 6), funded (*id.* at ¶ 7), created and developed (*id.* at ¶ 8) the allegedly deceptive
 20 and misleading ISOTs. The FAC further alleges that “The ISOTs created and developed by
 21 *Defendants* are highly misleading and often result in users subscribing to goods or services that
 22 they do not want or need.” (*Id.* at ¶ 34 (emphasis added); *see also id.* at ¶¶ 36-38, 41, 45, 52-56,
 23 63-66, 69.) Plaintiff has also stated that ISOTs created, designed, funded and promoted by *Zynga*
 24 interfaced with *Zynga* games. (*See, e.g., id.* at ¶¶ 6-9, 11-15.) Furthermore, Plaintiff expressly
 25 alleges that she participated in an ISOT “created and developed by *Zynga* and *Super Rewards*” in
 26 April 2009. (*Id.* at ¶ 37 (emphasis added).) To be sure, the FAC indicates that *Zynga’s CEO*
 27 admitted that the ISOTs *it* designed and promoted mislead users, were designed to mislead
 28 consumers and were “taking advantage of *Zynga’s* users,” (*Id.* at ¶ 20; *see also id.* at ¶¶ 16-

19.)

Plaintiff has also specifically described “what” and “how” Defendants’ ISOT scheme was misleading and deceptive to the public. Zynga argues that Plaintiff has not alleged specific misrepresentations that she relied upon (Mot. at 24), whether “Zynga supposedly knew the third-party ads were false, or what Zynga did to encourage Swift to accept the particular ads at issue, as opposed to ads generally.” (Mot. at 23.) Zynga also claims that, for one of the ads described in the FAC, it cannot tell what offer Plaintiff believed she was signing up for and what she thought “would happen when she entered her cell phone number.” (Mot. at 23.)

As an initial matter, Courts have held that knowledge of falsity (scienter), intent and “other conditions of a person’s mind may be alleged generally,” *Marcelos*, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 91155, at *16; *see also Keilholtz v. Superior Fireplace Co.*, No. C 08-00836 CW, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 30732, at *14 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 30, 2009). Furthermore, at least one post-*Kearns* decision has held that where claims are based on fraudulent omissions, “the Rule 9(b) standard is relaxed because “‘a plaintiff cannot plead either the specific time of [an] omission or the place, as he is not alleging an act, but a failure to act.’” *Cirulli v. Hyundai Motor Am.*, No. SACV 08-0854 AG (MLGx), 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 125139, at *11 (C.D. Cal. June 12, 2009) (citation omitted).

Despite the fact that Plaintiff is not required to plead knowledge and intent specifically, she has clearly done so in the FAC. The FAC describes the misleading and deceptive ISOT transactions in detail, including the specific misrepresentations or omissions upon which Plaintiff and other putative class members relied. In fact, the FAC actually contains a link to a video where the fraudulent ISOTs are depicted in detail. (*See* Ex. 1 to Plaintiff’s Request for Judicial Notice.)

In addition, the FAC alleges that Zynga knew its advertisements were false by quoting Zynga’s CEO, who admitted that the ISOTs were “**designed to mislead** consumers and generate increasing revenues for its business.” (*Id.* at ¶ 16 (emphasis added).) Mr. Pincus stated that he raised revenue for Zynga by “[doing] every horrible thing in the book . . . We did anything possible to just get revenues so that we could grow and be a real business.” (*Id.* (emphasis

omitted).) Mr. Pincus also suggested that Zynga's ISOTs did not "offer clear user value" and that Zynga engaged in such practices so that his company could eventually "do the right thing and make the long-term decisions like, get rid of all offers." (*Id.* at ¶ 19 (emphasis omitted).) As a result, Zynga has "*known* for some time that the ISOTs were" designed and promoted to "tak[e] advantage of Zynga's users," (*Id.* at ¶ 20 (emphasis added); *see also id.* at ¶¶ 41 ("At all times, Zynga . . . [was] aware, or should have been aware, of the false and deceptive nature of the ISOTs they presented to Plaintiff.").)

VIII. CONCLUSION

Zynga is not immune from liability under the CDA as a matter of law, and the allegations of Plaintiff's complaint state a plausible theory of Zynga's liability and the basis for Plaintiff's right to relief. Accordingly, Zynga's motion should be denied. In the alternative, Plaintiff respectfully requests leave to amend in the alternative to denying Zynga's motion in full.

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